

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on December 20, 2004. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 11, 16-20, 23, 25, 28, 33, 34, 42, 45, 48, 50, and 51 are amended. Claims 5, 27, 44, and 47 are cancelled. Claims 1-4, 6-26, 28-43, 45, 46, and 48-51 are pending.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 5-24, 27-41, and 47-51 contain allowable subject matter.

The specification is amended herein to correct a typographical error therein.

Claims 1-4, 25, 26, and 42-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bonneau (US 6,671,258).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the amended claims and the following comments.

Discussion of Amended Claims

Claim 1 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Claim 5 is cancelled. Claim 2 is amended to conform to the amendments made to claim 1. Claims 6, 7, 9, 11, 17-20, and 23 are amended to depend from claim 1 rather than cancelled claim 5.

Claim 16 is amended to correct a typographical error in the claim.

Claim 25 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 27. Claim 27 is cancelled. Claims 28, 33, and 34 are amended to depend from claim 25, rather than cancelled claim 27.

Claim 42 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 44 and the allowable subject matter of claim 47. Claims 44 and 47 are cancelled. Claims 45, 50, and 51 are amended to depend from claim 42, rather than cancelled claim 44. Claim 48 is amended to depend from claim 42, rather than cancelled claim 47.

Accordingly, each of the amended independent claims now contains allowable subject matter. Applicant respectfully submits that the application is therefore in condition for immediate allowance.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is not anticipated by and would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art in view of Bonneau, taken alone or in combination with any of the other prior art of record.

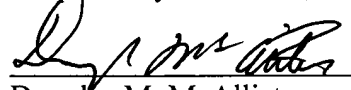
Further remarks regarding the asserted relationship between Applicant's claims and the prior art are not deemed necessary, in view of the amended claims and the foregoing discussion. Applicant's silence as to any of the Examiner's comments is not indicative of an acquiescence to the stated grounds of rejection.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider this application, allow each of the pending claims and to pass this application on to an early issue. If there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed in order to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 17, 2005